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Payroll Jobs

Weekly payroll job indexes, sourced from Single Touch Payroll (STP) data

Reference period Week ending 14 September 2024

Released 23/01/2025

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Key statistics

In the week ending 14 September 2024, payroll jobs:

- increased by 0.3% in the month from 17 August 2024
- increased by 0.4% in the year from 16 September 2023

Month change periods represent the index change between the reference week and four weeks prior, whereas annual change represents the index change from 52 weeks prior.

Estimates of change throughout this release are calculated using un-rounded index values. They may differ from, though are more accurate than, change calculated from rounded values.

The final reference week for this release is the 14 September 2024. The next quarterly release reference week will be the 14 December 2024.

Greater variability at the change in financial year

There is a greater level of reporting variability around the change in financial years making the interpretation of change in payroll jobs across this period more challenging than usual. This period also sees greater revisions than usual in subsequent releases.

Change periods



Change periods

Period reference	Reference week ending	Month change from	Annual change from
September 2024	14 September 2024	17 August 2024	16 September 2023
August 2024	17 August 2024	20 July 2024	19 August 2023
July 2024	13 July 2024	15 June 2024	15 July 2023

Interpreting drivers of index change



The distribution of payroll jobs across states and territories, industries, employment size groups and age groups should be considered when interpreting drivers of index change. For example, index movements in states and territories with a larger share of payroll jobs like New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, will have a greater influence. Distributions of jobholder and employer characteristics are included in the [Data downloads \(/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-14-september-2024#data-downloads\)](#) to aid in interpretability of payroll job indexes.

Impact of employer and jobholder characteristics updates



Employer and jobholder characteristics, including industry, employment size, state/territory of residential address and age, are periodically updated. These updates are referred to as 'transition points.' Users should always exercise caution when comparing index levels across transition points. The most recent transition point was for week ending 30 December, 2023 related to updating of employer characteristics. For further details, refer to Updating characteristics variables in the [How data is transformed \(/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-14-september-2024#how-data-is-transformed\)](#) section in the Methodology.

National

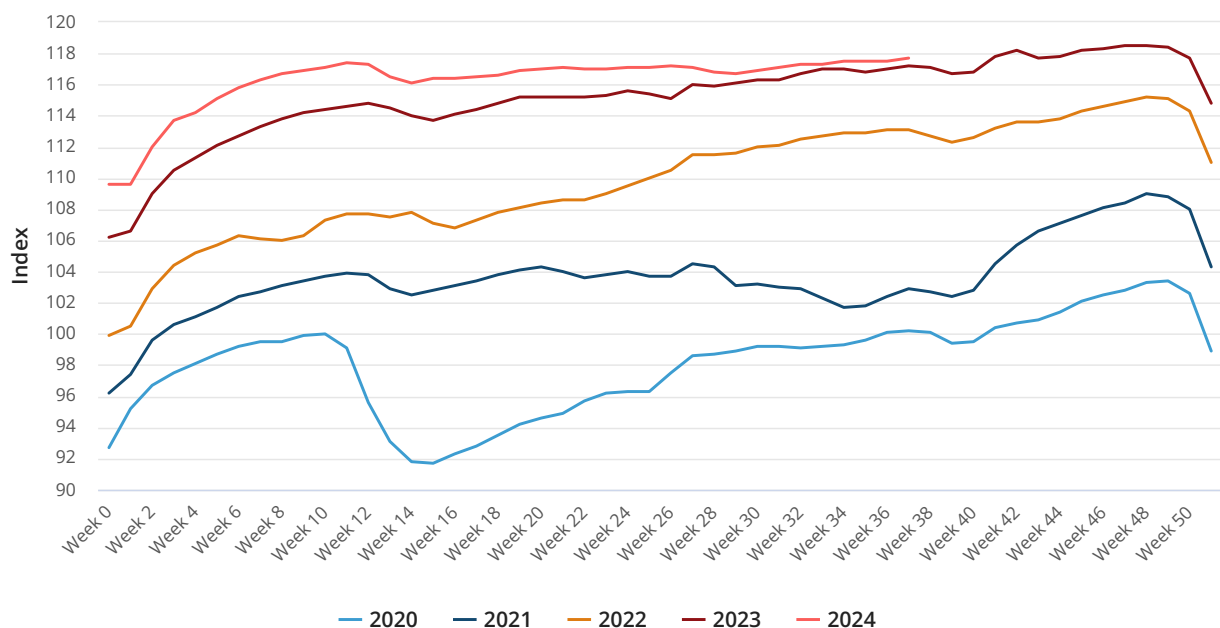
Percentage change in payroll jobs (a)

	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
Month change (%)	-0.2	0.5	0.3
Year change (%)	0.8	0.3	0.4

a. Refer to Change periods in the [Key statistics \(/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-14-september-2024#key-statistics\)](#) section for detailed reference dates.

The 0.3% positive monthly movement to mid-September 2024 was influenced by payroll jobs growth in Public administration and safety related to the NSW state elections.

Payroll jobs, comparison across years (a)(b)(c)



a. Indexed to the week ending 14 March 2020 (week 10 in 2020).

b. Week 0 represents the weeks ending 4 January 2020, 2 January 2021, 1 January 2022, 31 December 2022 and 30 December 2023. Week 37 represents the weeks ending 19 September 2020, 18 September 2021, 17 September 2022, 16 September 2023 and 14 September 2024.

c. There is greater variation in business payroll reporting around the change in financial years. Refer to End of financial year variability in the [Factors affecting interpretation \(/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-14-september-2024#factors-affecting-interpretation\)](#) section of the Methodology for more information.

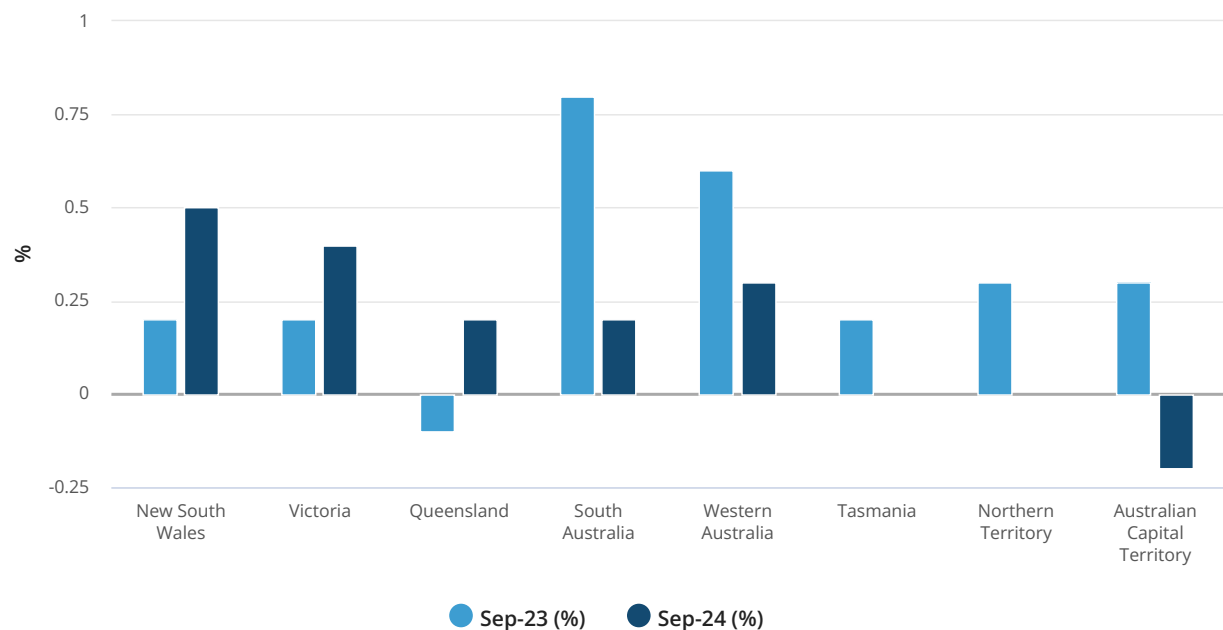
State and territory

All geographical areas in this release represent the residential address of the jobholder.

In the month to 14 September 2024, payroll jobs change varied across states and territories.

- The largest increase was in New South Wales (0.5%).
- The Australian Capital Territory decreased 0.2%.

Month change in payroll jobs, by state and territory (a)



a. Refer to Change periods in the [Key statistics \(/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-14-september-2024#key-statistics\)](#) section for detailed reference dates.

Month change ⬆

Month change in payroll jobs, by state and territory (a)

	Jul-24 (%)	Aug-24 (%)	Sep-24 (%)
New South Wales	-0.1	0.5	0.5
Victoria	-0.7	0.5	0.4
Queensland	0.6	0.3	0.2
South Australia	-0.2	0.7	0.2
Western Australia	-0.6	0.4	0.3
Tasmania	-0.2	0.5	0.0
Northern Territory	-1.0	0.8	0.0
Australian Capital Territory	-0.5	1.0	-0.2
Australia	-0.2	0.5	0.3

a. For reference dates refer to Change periods in the [Key statistics \(/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-14-september-2024#key-statistics\)](#) section.

Annual change ⬆

Annual change in payroll jobs, by state and territory (a)

	Jul-24 (%)	Aug-24 (%)	Sep-24 (%)
New South Wales	0.7	0.1	0.4
Victoria	0.3	-0.2	0.0
Queensland	1.1	0.5	0.7
South Australia	1.5	1.1	0.5
Western Australia	1.7	1.1	0.9
Tasmania	0.5	-0.3	-0.6
Northern Territory	0.9	1.2	0.9
Australian Capital Territory	-0.8	-0.7	-1.2
Australia	0.8	0.3	0.4

a. For reference dates refer to Change periods in the [Key statistics \(/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-14-september-2024#key-statistics\)](#) section.

Age group

In the month to 14 September 2024, the largest change in payroll jobs was worked by persons aged 70 and over, up 2.3%.

Month change



Month change in payroll jobs, by age group (a)(b)

	Jul-24 (%)	Aug-24 (%)	Sep-24 (%)
15-19	-0.9	0.1	-0.2
20-29	-0.4	0.7	0.4
30-39	0.2	0.2	0.3
40-49	0.0	0.5	0.4
50-59	0.0	0.4	0.3
60-69	-0.7	0.8	0.7
70 and over	-2.9	2.2	2.3
All persons	-0.2	0.5	0.3

a. For reference dates refer to Change periods in the [Key statistics \(/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-14-september-2024#key-statistics\)](#) section.

b. The small cohort size of the 15-19 and 70 years and over age groups results in a higher degree of volatility.

Annual change



Annual change in payroll jobs, by age group (a)(b)

	Jul-24 (%)	Aug-24 (%)	Sep-24 (%)
15-19	-7.2	-8.4	-7.6
20-29	0.0	-0.6	-0.7
30-39	1.6	1.1	1.2
40-49	2.0	1.6	1.8
50-59	0.8	0.5	0.7
60-69	3.3	2.6	2.5
70 and over	5.2	5.7	5.8
All persons	0.8	0.3	0.4

a. For reference dates refer to Change periods in the [Key statistics \(/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-14-september-2024#key-statistics\)](#) section.

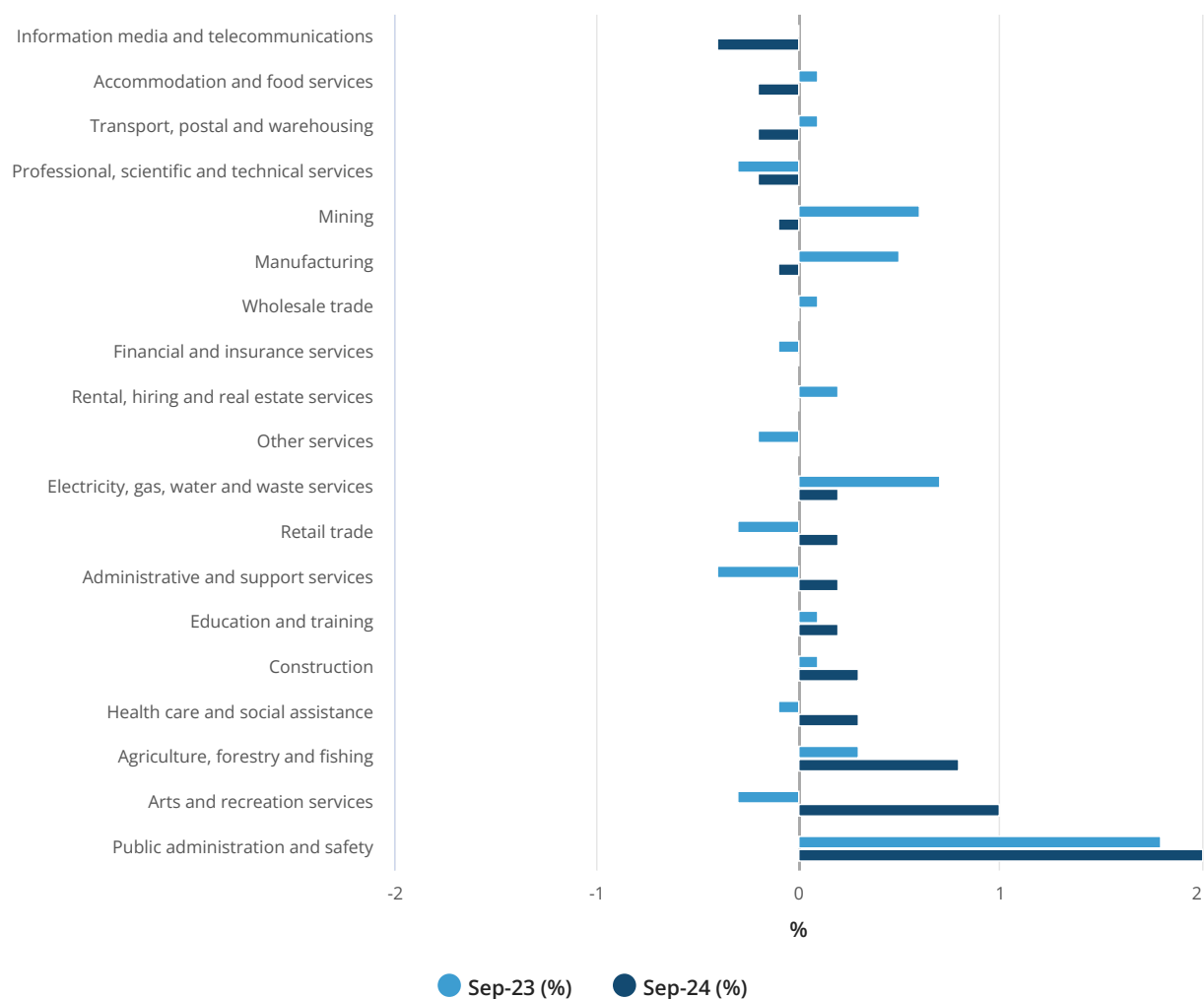
b. The small cohort size of the 15-19 and 70 years and over age groups results in a higher degree of volatility.

Industry

In the month to 14 September 2024, payroll jobs rose in 9 of 19 industries.

- The largest increase was in Public administration and safety (2.0%).
- The largest decrease was in Information media and telecommunications (-0.4%).

Month change in payroll jobs, by industry (a)(b)



- a. Industries ranked by percentage change in the latest month.
- b. Refer to Change periods in the [Key statistics \(/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-14-september-2024#key-statistics\)](/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-14-september-2024#key-statistics) section for detailed reference dates.

Month change

^

Month change in payroll jobs, by industry (a)(b)(c)

	Jul-24 (%)	Aug-24 (%)	Sep-24 (%)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	-1.9	-0.7	0.8
Mining	0.2	-0.2	-0.1
Manufacturing	-0.5	-0.2	-0.1
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	-0.1	0.3	0.2
Construction	-0.1	-0.6	0.3
Wholesale trade	-0.2	-0.6	0.0
Retail trade	-1.0	0.6	0.2
Accommodation and food services	-0.7	0.1	-0.2
Transport, postal and warehousing	-0.7	0.4	-0.2
Information media and telecommunications	-0.8	0.2	-0.4
Financial and insurance services	-0.3	0.2	0.0
Rental, hiring and real estate services	-0.9	-0.5	0.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	0.0	-0.3	-0.2
Administrative and support services	-1.5	-0.9	0.2
Public administration and safety	0.1	0.8	2.0
Education and training	-3.7	5.0	0.2
Health care and social assistance	-0.1	-0.2	0.3
Arts and recreation services	-1.2	0.5	1.0
Other services	-0.1	-0.1	0.0
All industries	-0.2	0.5	0.3

- Some industries experience pronounced seasonality in payroll jobs, which can affect the interpretation of change between months and industries. For more information, refer to Seasonality in the [Factors affecting interpretation \(/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-14-september-2024#factors-affecting-interpretation\)](#) section of the Methodology.
- Jobs with 'unknown' industry are only included in the calculation of all industry indexes. For more information, refer to Inclusion of unknown characteristics in [How data is transformed \(/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-14-september-2024#how-data-is-transformed\)](#) section of the Methodology.
- For reference dates refer to Change periods in the [Key statistics \(/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-14-september-2024#key-statistics\)](#) section.

Annual change



Annual change in payroll jobs, by industry (a)(b)(c)

	Jul-24 (%)	Aug-24 (%)	Sep-24 (%)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	-2.2	-3.1	-2.5
Mining	4.1	3.6	2.8
Manufacturing	1.9	1.6	0.9
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	6.7	7.3	6.8
Construction	3.0	3.0	3.1
Wholesale trade	2.3	1.8	1.8
Retail trade	1.8	1.1	1.6
Accommodation and food services	0.7	-0.1	-0.4
Transport, postal and warehousing	1.0	0.9	0.6
Information media and telecommunications	-1.8	-0.2	-0.6
Financial and insurance services	2.6	2.4	2.6
Rental, hiring and real estate services	1.4	1.0	0.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	1.4	1.2	1.3
Administrative and support services	-0.5	-1.4	-0.9
Public administration and safety	4.9	5.9	6.1
Education and training	5.4	3.4	3.5
Health care and social assistance	7.3	6.1	6.5
Arts and recreation services	0.7	1.0	2.4
Other services	4.2	3.2	3.5
All industries	0.8	0.3	0.4

- Some industries experience pronounced seasonality in payroll jobs, which can affect the interpretation of change between months and industries. For more information, refer to Seasonality in the [Factors affecting interpretation \(/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-14-september-2024#factors-affecting-interpretation\)](/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-14-september-2024#factors-affecting-interpretation) section of the Methodology.
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- For reference dates refer to Change periods in the [Key statistics \(/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-14-september-2024#key-statistics\)](/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-14-september-2024#key-statistics) section.

Industry subdivision

Time series estimates of payroll jobs by industry subdivision are presented as index values in Table 2 of the Data downloads. Refer to the [Glossary \(/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-14-september-2024#glossary\)](/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-14-september-2024#glossary) in the Methodology for more detailed information on the industry classification.

Industry employment guide

Refer to the ABS [Industry employment guide \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/industry-employment-guide#industry\)](/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/industry-employment-guide#industry) for more detailed information on the range of ABS labour measures, their purpose and how to use them.

Employment size

In the month to 14 September 2024, payroll jobs rose in 2 of the 3 employment size groups.

- Employers with 20-199 employees and over had the largest increase (0.4%).
- Employers with 0-19 employees had the only fall (-0.2%).

Month change



Month change in payroll jobs, by employment size (a)(b)(c)

	Jul-24 (%)	Aug-24 (%)	Sep-24 (%)
0-19 employees	-1.4	-0.2	-0.2
20-199 employees	-1.2	0.1	0.4
200 employees and over	-0.2	0.7	0.3
All businesses	-0.2	0.5	0.3

- Records with 'unknown' employment size are only included in the calculation of All businesses indexes. For more information, refer to Revisions in the [Factors affecting interpretation \(/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-14-september-2024#factors-affecting-interpretation\)](/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-14-september-2024#factors-affecting-interpretation) section of the Methodology.
- Recent periods in payroll jobs by employment size indexes can be subject to higher than usual revisions over a longer period - particularly for small employers. These indexes are more heavily influenced by changes in reporting behaviour than other indexes, affecting the interpretation of underlying change in labour market conditions.
- For reference dates refer to Change periods in the [Key statistics \(/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-14-september-2024#key-statistics\)](/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-14-september-2024#key-statistics) section.

Annual change



Annual change in payroll jobs, by employment size (a)(b)(c)

	Jul-24 (%)	Aug-24 (%)	Sep-24 (%)
0-19 employees	-7.5	-7.9	-8.1
20-199 employees	6.8	6.4	7.1
200 employees and over	7.1	6.3	6.3
All businesses	0.8	0.3	0.4

- Records with 'unknown' employment size are only included in the calculation of All businesses indexes. For more information, refer to Revisions in the [Factors affecting interpretation \(/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-14-september-2024#factors-affecting-interpretation\)](/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-14-september-2024#factors-affecting-interpretation) section of the Methodology.
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- For reference dates refer to Change periods in the [Key statistics \(/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-14-september-2024#key-statistics\)](/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-14-september-2024#key-statistics) section.

Data downloads

In this release, industry subdivision proportions have been included in Table 4. Payroll jobs distributions of characteristics, proportions.

Table 1. Payroll jobs, indexes

State/territory, industry division and age groups.

↓ [Download XLSX](#)
[6.64 MB]

Table 2. Payroll jobs by industry subdivision, indexes

Industry division and subdivision.

↓ [Download XLSX](#)
[158.47 KB]

Table 3. Payroll jobs by employment size, indexes

State/territory and employment size groups.

↓ [Download XLSX](#)
[209.28 KB]

Distribution of characteristics

Selected distributions of jobholder and employer characteristics are included to aid interpretability of payroll job estimates.

Records with 'unknown' characteristics are excluded from the calculation of proportions. Refer to the Updating characteristic variables and Inclusion of unknown characteristics in the [How data is transformed \(/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-14-september-2024#how-data-is-transformed\)](/methodologies/payroll-jobs-methodology/week-ending-14-september-2024#how-data-is-transformed) section of the Methodology for more information on the source, impact and proportion of unknowns.

Table 4. Payroll jobs distributions of characteristics, proportions

Previously named 'Table 20: Payroll jobs - characteristics distributions'.

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[488.08 KB]

All data cubes

[↓ Download ZIP](#)
[1.98 MB]

Previous articles

Previously published articles and information of interest are linked below:

- [Labour statistics recent and upcoming developments \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/labour-statistics-recent-and-upcoming-developments\)](/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/labour-statistics-recent-and-upcoming-developments) (updated regularly)
- [Characteristics spotlight: 2022 \(/articles/characteristics-spotlight-2022\)](/articles/characteristics-spotlight-2022) (August 2022)
- [Characteristics spotlight: 2021 \(/articles/distribution-jobholder-and-employer-characteristics\)](/articles/distribution-jobholder-and-employer-characteristics) (May 2021)
- [Seasonality spotlight: 2022 to 2023 year end \(/articles/spotlight-seasonality-payroll-jobs-and-wages-paid-2022-year-end\)](/articles/spotlight-seasonality-payroll-jobs-and-wages-paid-2022-year-end) (April 2023)
- [Seasonality spotlight: 2021 to 2022 year end \(https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/seasonality-spotlight-2021-year-end\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/seasonality-spotlight-2021-year-end) (February 2022)
- [Seasonality spotlight: 2020 to 2021 year end \(/articles/year-end-data-variability\)](/articles/year-end-data-variability) (February 2021)
- [A year of COVID-19 through payroll jobs and wages statistics \(/articles/year-covid-19-through-payroll-jobs-and-wages-statistics\)](/articles/year-covid-19-through-payroll-jobs-and-wages-statistics) (March 2021)
- [Regional spotlight: New South Wales and Queensland \(/articles/regional-spotlight-new-south-wales-and-queensland\)](/articles/regional-spotlight-new-south-wales-and-queensland) (April 2022)

Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6160.0.55.001.

Methodology

Scope

Payroll jobs of all businesses reporting through Single Touch Payroll (STP), regardless of the age or Australian residency status of the jobholder.

Geography

Geography relates to the jobholder's residential address and is available for:

- Australia total
- States and territories

Source

Australian Taxation Office (ATO) Single Touch Payroll (STP) administrative data combined with ATO Client Register and ABS Business Register data.

Collection method

The ABS receives selected employer and employee level data from the ATO STP system, which are combined with employer and jobholder characteristics from the ABS Business Register and ATO Client Register.

Concepts, sources and methods

A payroll job is a relationship between an employee and their employer where the employee is paid through STP-enabled payroll or accounting software.

History of changes

Refer to the [History of changes](#) section.

[View full methodology →](#)